these 102 medicines under health programmes funded by Government of India (*e.g.* purchases under National Rural Health Mission etc.). As a result, orders for 102 medicines are placed on pharma CPSEs & their subsidiaries. This would help in revival of sick Pharma CPSEs.

Revival of sick fertilizer units

556. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute growth in consumption of fertilizers during the last three years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan, demand supply gap is expected to be 20 million tonnes;

(c) if so, what are the proposed actions and policy decision by Government to meet such huge need of fertilizers in the coming years;

(d) whether there is any plan with Government to rejuvenate the sick fertilizer industry by incentivising increased production and investing more to face the growing needs of fertilizers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the Report of the Working Group on Fertilizers on Eleventh Five Year Plan, the expected demand of all types of fertilizers is likely to be around 559 lakh MT. The supply is proposed to be met through indigenous production/imports.

(c) to (e) In urea sector, in view of the projected improvement in availability of gas in future, the Government is looking into all options for finalization of a new policy, which may attract investments by incentivising increased production from existing units, revival of closed units and setting up of new fertilizer units.

In phosphatic sector, the indigenous resources are meagre and are in a position to meet only 10% of the country's requirement 90% of the country's requirement is being presently met through imports of raw materials, intermediates and finished fertilizers. The potassic requirement is 100% import dependent as currently there are no economically exploitable reserves of potash in the country. The Government is exploring possibilities for setting up Joint Ventures abroad for manufacture/supply of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers.

Subsidy on fertilizers

557. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether increase in MSP for rabi crop and procurement price for Kharif has any impact on the subsidy for fertilizers given to farmers;

(b) if so, the detials thereof;

(c) the amount of subsidy on fertilizers paid during 2006-07 and proposed to be paid during 2007-08; and